containers in their factory premises for customs examination, subject to fulfilment of a few conditions;

(b) The facility has been extended with a view to liberalising the procedure and reducing delays in the movement of inputs required for export.

Wasteful expenditure on stationery in Government Offices

110. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government departments are making wasteful expenditure on the purchase of certain items of stationery and other articles, such as Tuffend table glasses instead of ordinary table glasses, costly writing pens instead of ordinary pens, plastic coated gem clips rather than ordinary steel gem clips etc;

(b) if so, the reasons of this wasteful expenditure and the steps taken by his Ministry to direct all the Government departments not to waste the public money like this; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay copy of the instructions issued if any, in this rgard on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been delegated full powers under the Delegation of Financial Power Rules, 1978, for purchase of local petty stationery stores. Expenditure incurred in excess of Rs. 1 lakh per annum on the purchase of stationery etc. is required to be authorised with the concurrence of the Controller of Stationery.

The Ministries/Departments purchase stationery/stores as per their requirements. The authority purchasing stationery/stores has to ensure that the price of articles purchased is reasonable and consistent with the quality required.

Agitation by Bank employees regarding their pay scales and promotions

111. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank employees and officers have been agitating over the delay in the revision of their pay scales, accelerated promotions, etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and by when their grievances are likely to be redressed;

(c) whether the career prospects of the clerks in the banking industry are far too inadequate and the clerks remain in the same state even after putting in more than ten years of service; and

(d) if so the reasons for this apathy and the steps taken to accelerate the promotions of the clerks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association has reported that the banks' employees have been agitating for various demands including early wage revision. IBA is seized of the matter and a few rounds of discussions for the VIth bipartite settlement have already been held. Wage negotiations are, however, by their very nature, a long and protracted affair and, therefore, no time frame can be stipulated.

(c) and (d) It may not be correct to say that the career prospects of the clerks in the banking industry are inadequate. In fact; 75 per cent of the vacancies in the officers cadres of the public sector banks are filled by promotions from clerical